



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 1, 2019

Office of Governor Tony Evers
2 East Main Street
Madison, WI 53703

HAND DELIVERED

Governor Evers,

As you deliberate the signing of the Legislature's WISCONSIN budget, we not only ask for your support of the budget as a whole, but specifically for a provision regarding funding for the rehabilitation of the Veterans Memorial Lift Bridge in Kaukauna, WI.

Located in the heart of Kaukauna, this bridge has a huge impact on the local economy and community. When deliberations for this budget began, Kaukauna Mayor Anthony Penterman reached out to your office as well as each of ours asking the state for assistance. As the mayor noted, the U.S. Coast Guard has indicated that the lifting mechanism on the Veterans Memorial Lift Bridge must be operational by May 1, 2021 or the city, through no fault of its own, will face a penalty. Located on the Fox River, the bridge serves an important role in not only Kaukauna, but also for the entire Fox Valley community. Daily traffic serves local businesses, as well as school children, emergency services, and other community members.

Working with Mayor Penterman and other city officials, our offices set forth to secure funding to ensure the lift bridge would once again be operational. In the budget, we sought funding from the Local Bridge Improvement Assistance Program, which is utilized by local communities around the state to help rehabilitate their bridges. This program utilizes both local and federal funding, and provides locals an 80/20 split to help complete the project. The City of Kaukauna is ready and committed to funding the 20% necessary to complete this project by the U.S. Coast Guard's deadline.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and we once again urge you to support the funding of the Veterans Memorial Lift Bridge in Kaukauna. Please reach out to our offices with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this project.

Best regards,

Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke

State Senator Rob Cowles

CC: Kaukauna Mayor Tony Penterman
City of Kaukauna Common Council Members
Fox River Navigational System Authority